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## Senate

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Our Father, we place our hope in You. May our lawmakers find wisdom in Your trustworthy precepts. Guide our Senators to live so honorably that they will bring glory to Your Name. Lord, inspire them to yield their allegiance to You, striving always to receive Your approval. Thank You for hearing and answering their prayers, as they fervently seek Your wisdom. Guide them through the challenges of these times.

Lord, remind us all that we are mere sojourners in time, heading for the better land of eternity.

We pray in Your loving Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Iowa.

### CORONAVIRUS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, much has been said on the Senate floor

these past few days regarding our Nation's response to the coronavirus. But this morning, after our prayer to the Lord and after the pledge to our Nation's flag, I want to take this opportunity to send Iowans' and our Nation's parents my commendation because schools are closing, and as these schools close, the work of a parent or grandparent is more important than ever. I know many children are scared or don't understand why they can't play with their friends, and this puts an extra burden on their parents on top of all of the other challenges that these families have.

Those of you who are parents are raising America's future, and I want to recognize the importance of what you do every day.

I yield the floor.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

### SENATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, yesterday, President Trump and his team announced several new actions to help contain and combat the coronavirus. The President invoked the Defense Production Act, laying groundwork to manufacture more medical equipment. The Department of Health and Human Services will let medical professionals practice across State lines. The Department of Defense will deploy hospital ships and transfer millions of respirator masks and thousands of ventilators to HHS. The FDA will deepen partnerships with commercial laboratories to expand testing. The Department of Housing and Urban Development will suspend foreclosures and evictions on FHA-insured mortgages. And the Department of Homeland Security reached a mutual agreement with Canada to close our north-

ern border to nonessential travel. These are major steps as we confront a major crisis.

Here in the Senate we are preparing to take further bold steps of our own. Yesterday, we passed legislation from the House that will provide some American workers with additional benefits during this emergency. As I explained yesterday, that legislation was hardly perfect. It imposes new costs and uncertainty on small businesses at precisely the most challenging moment for small businesses in living memory. So the Senate is even more determined that our legislation cannot leave small businesses behind.

Support for small business is one of the four key components of the much bolder proposal we are finalizing. Chairman RUBIO and Chairman COLLINS have been crafting a major plan to help small businesses survive this crisis and help workers continue to get paid.

We are talking about new federally guaranteed loans on the order of hundreds of billions of dollars to address immediate cashflow problems. This is no massive new bureaucracy. We want to let qualified small businesses get liquidity through familiar institutions—their own community banks, credit unions, or nationwide lenders.

As Chairman COLLINS explained yesterday, owners will not be able to use the funds to give themselves raises or increase their own profits. The point is to help small business endure, help workers keep their jobs, and help both businesses and workers emerge from this ready to thrive.

As Chairman RUBIO explained, the portions of these funds that small businesses use on core expenses, such as paying workers and paying their rent or mortgage, will convert into grants they will not need to pay back. This will make sure that even lower profit margin Main Street businesses get a fighting chance to stay open and continue paying workers.

This is straightforward: a rapid injection of cash to help small businesses

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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